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DOCTOR WHO #3

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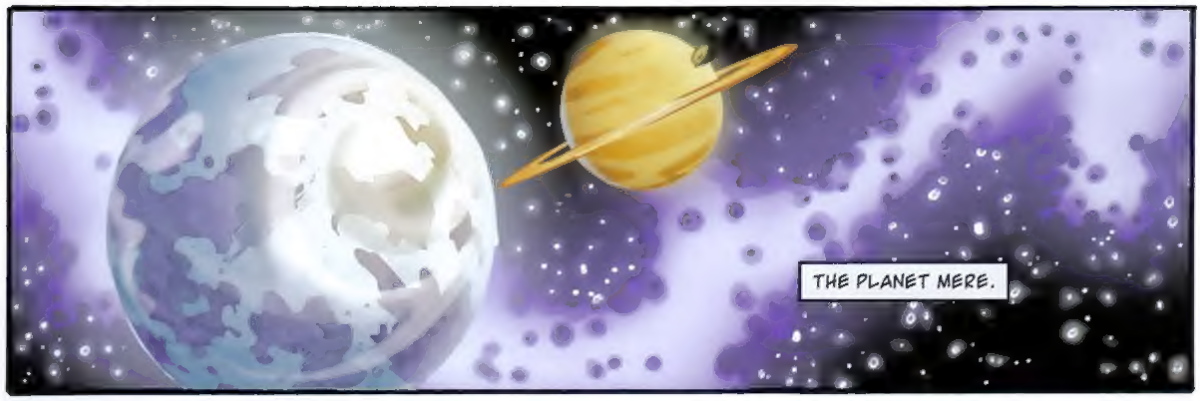
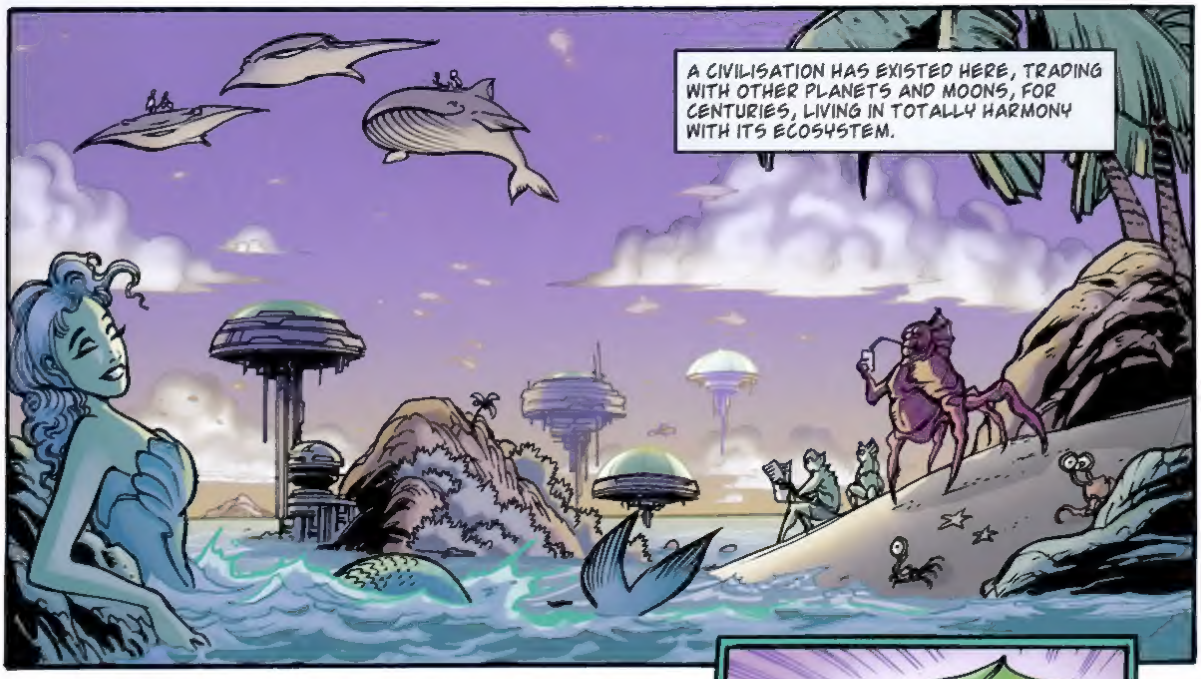
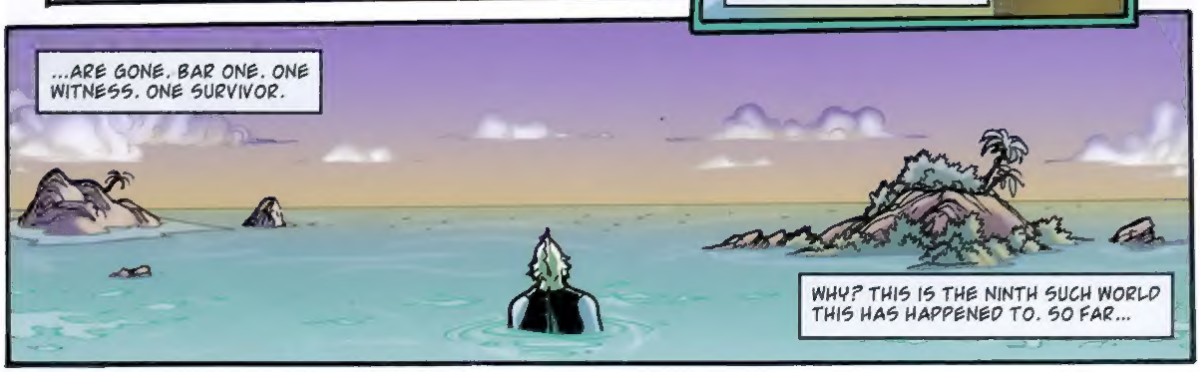

THE PLANET MERE.


A CIVILISATION HAS EXISTED HERE, TRADING WITH OTHER PLANETS AND MOONS, FOR CENTURIES, LIVING IN TOTALLY HARMONY WITH ITS ECOSYSTEM.

BUT TODAY, SOMETHING WILL CHANGE THAT...

...FOR TODAY, THE EIGHT MILLION SOULS WHO LIVE IN THE SEAS OF MER...

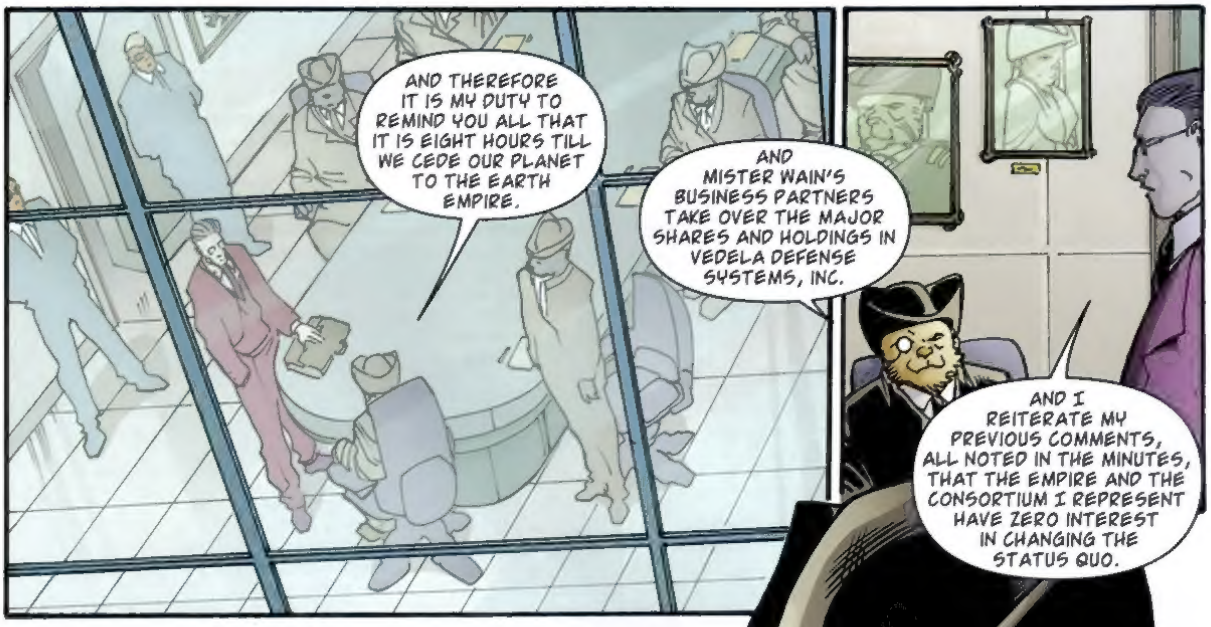

...ARE GONE. BAR ONE. ONE WITNESS. ONE SURVIVOR.
WHY? THIS IS THE NINTH SUCH WORLD THIS HAS HAPPENED TO. SO FAR...

THIS, MARTHA JONES... THIS IS ONE OF THE BESTEST, MOST FUN-EST THINGS IN THE GALAXY TO DO ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON.
ZZZZUUUUUUSSSHHHHH
POLICE BOX
HOW D'YOU KNOW IT'S A SUNDAY?

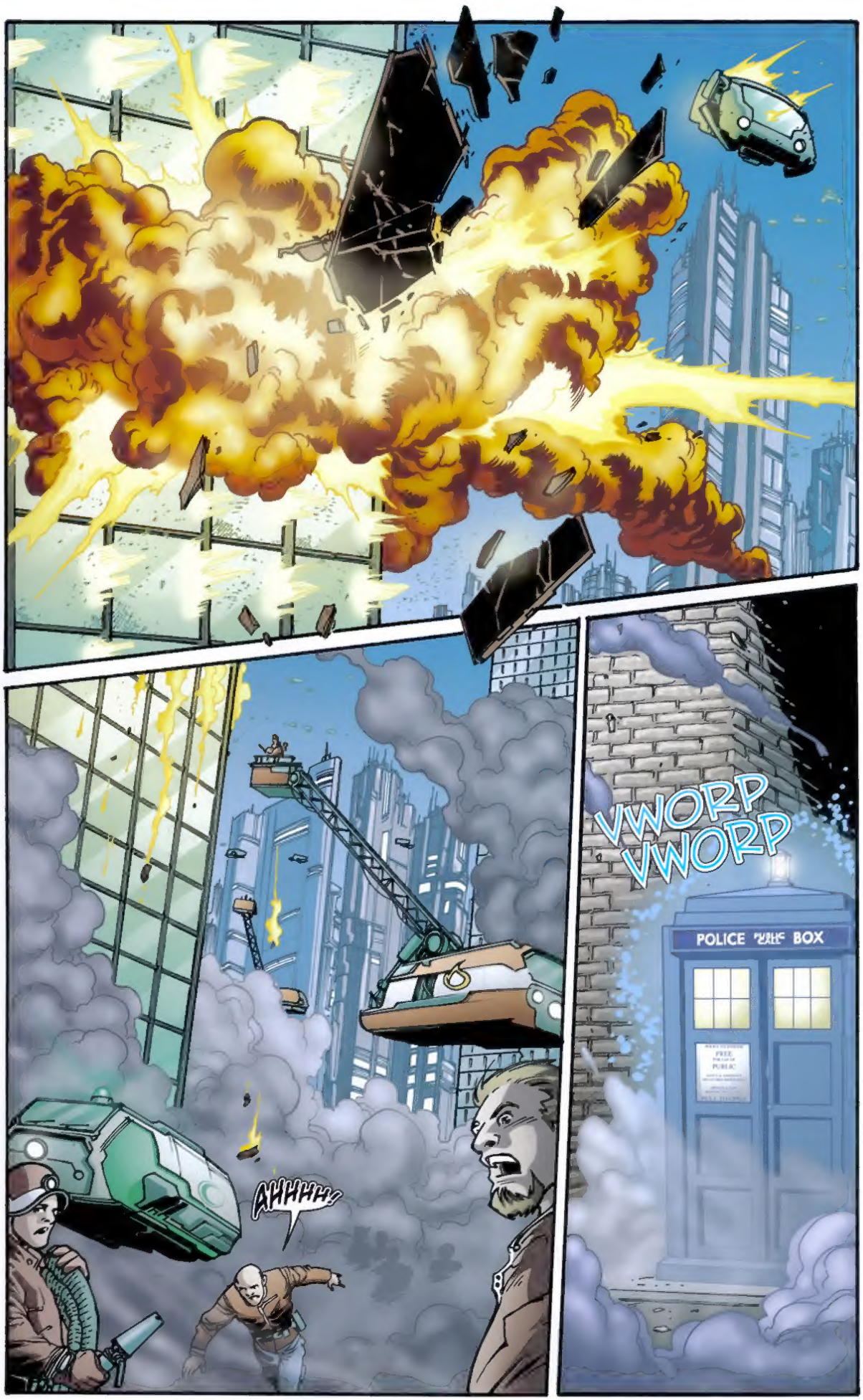
WELL, 'COS I DECIDED TO CALL TODAY A SUNDAY. SO WE COULD DO THIS!
AND WHAT EXACTLY IS "THIS" WHEN IT'S AT HOME?
WE'RE PRESENT AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF CREATION FOR A NEW PLANET. OR PLANETOID. OR ASTEROID. OR—
OKAY—GOT THE POINT, DOCTOR! AND WE'RE DOING THIS WHY?
'COS IT'S FUN!
AND I NEED TO TEST THE TARDIS'S EXO-SHELL'S DIMENSIONAL PROPERTIES UNDER EXTREME HEAT, AND BEFORE IT SOLIDIFIES, THIS PLANETARY CORE SHOULD BE AT ABOUT 9,500 FAHRENHEIT RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S WAY OVERDUE FOR HER 100 BILLION MILES SERVICE!
OKAY, I THINK I UNDERSTOOD THAT. DIDN'T LIKE IT MUCH—SO LET'S PRETEND YOU NEVER SAID IT AND IN FACT JUST SAID WE'RE GOING FOR A SPIN.
LITERALLY. QUITE, QUITE LITERALLY. EVER BEEN INSIDE A WASHING MACHINE SET ON FAST SPIN, MARTHA? HOLD ONTO YOUR HAT—WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO HEAR IS GONNA BE HOT!
HOT DAWG!
VWWWOOOOOOSSSHHHHHH

GALAXY M57. LOCAL STAR, FELINUS.
LOCAL SYSTEM, NEW HUMAN EMPIRE.
THIS PLANET: NEW SAVANNAH.

IN EIGHT HOURS, IT'LL BE MIDNIGHT, AND WE ENTER THE YEAR FIVE BILLION.
HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM


AND THEREFORE IT IS MY DUTY TO REMIND YOU ALL THAT IT IS EIGHT HOURS TILL WE CEDE OUR PLANET TO THE EARTH EMPIRE.
AND MISTER WAIN'S BUSINESS PARTNERS TAKE OVER THE MAJOR SHARES AND HOLDINGS IN VEDELA DEFENSE SYSTEMS, INC.
AND I REITERATE MY PREVIOUS COMMENTS, ALL NOTED IN THE MINUTES, THAT THE EMPIRE AND THE CONSORTIUM I REPRESENT HAVE ZERO INTEREST IN CHANGING THE STATUS QUO.

OTHER THAN MYSELF.
REGRETTABLE.
BUT INEVITABLE.
AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THIS BOARD. MISTER CHAIRMAN, ON BEHALF OF US ALL, I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT... WHAT ON—


AHHHH!
VWORP VWORP
POLICE PUBLIC BOX

WHAT D'YOU THINK? WASN'T THAT JUST THE FUN-EST FUN THING EVER?
IT WAS GREAT, DAD! CAN WE GO ROUND THE RIDE AGAIN?

OI. DON'T YOU "DAD" ME. I'M A BIT WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
REALLY? MY DAD? WHY? YOU DON'T KNOW HIM.

NOT SURE I WANT TO. LAST TIME I MET ONE OF YOUR PARENTS, I NEARLY LOST A COUPLE OF TEETH. ARE ALL YOU JONESES "PUNCH FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER" TYPES?
OH, MUM'S JUST PROTECTIVE OF US ALL. AWWW, DID THE NASTY LADY HURT THE ICKLE DOCTOR?
YEAH, I KNOW. PRIDE MOTHER PROTECTING HER CUBS AND ALL THAT.

SHALL WE SEE WHERE THE SONIC SCREWDRIVER HAS BROUGHT US TO, THEN? AFTER ALL, IT WAS HOMING IN ON THAT FORCEFIELD GENERATOR THAT ENCASED YOU ON EARTH AND—
WELL, PERHAPS THEY'VE MET YOUR MOTHER, TOO...
POLICE BOX
UMM... I THINK IT'S THAT...

WE SHOULD HELP.
I'LL HEAD TO THE BASE OF THE BUILDING. IF ALL THE AMBULANCES ARE UP AT THE TOP, PEOPLE HURT BY DEBRIS MIGHT NEED SOME MEDICAL ATTENTION.
GOOD CALL, DOCTOR JONES.

ZZZZKKKKKTTTT

RIGHT YOU ARE, BOYS...

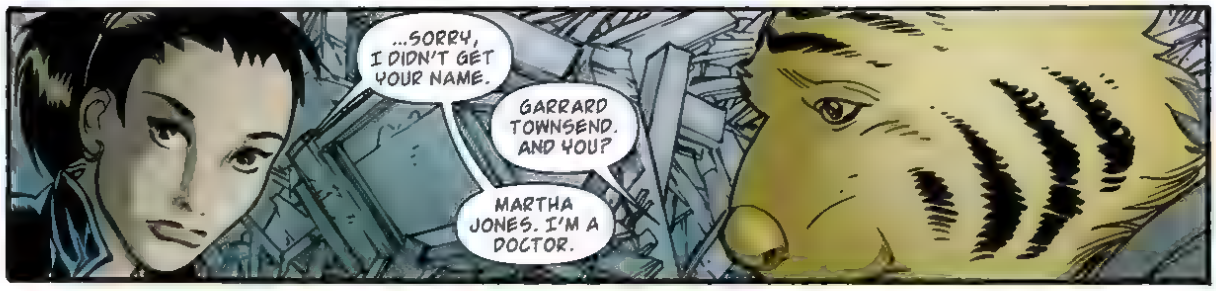
... JOB WELL DONE, I THINK. TIME TO REPORT IN AND THEN GET OFF THIS PLANET BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
WON'T THEY HAVE CLOSED OFF THE SHUTTLEPORTS?
YEAH, WE DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK HERE.

ALL CONTINGENCES PREPARED FOR, BOYS. NOW, SHIFT!

CATKIND! DOCTOR, ARE WE ON NEW EARTH AGAIN? THAT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT...
RIGHT ARCHITECTURAL PERIOD, WRONG SKYLINE. NO, I RECKON WE'RE CLOSE, THOUGH.
HELLO THERE, BIG FELLA.
SHE CALLED YOU A DOCTOR.
THERE AREN'T MANY HUMAN DOCTORS IN THE CITY. YOU MAY BE NEEDED UP TOP.
YOU GO. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO HERE.
YOU TAKE CARE, OKAY?
YOU, TOO.
OKAY, BOYS, LET'S GET UP THERE.

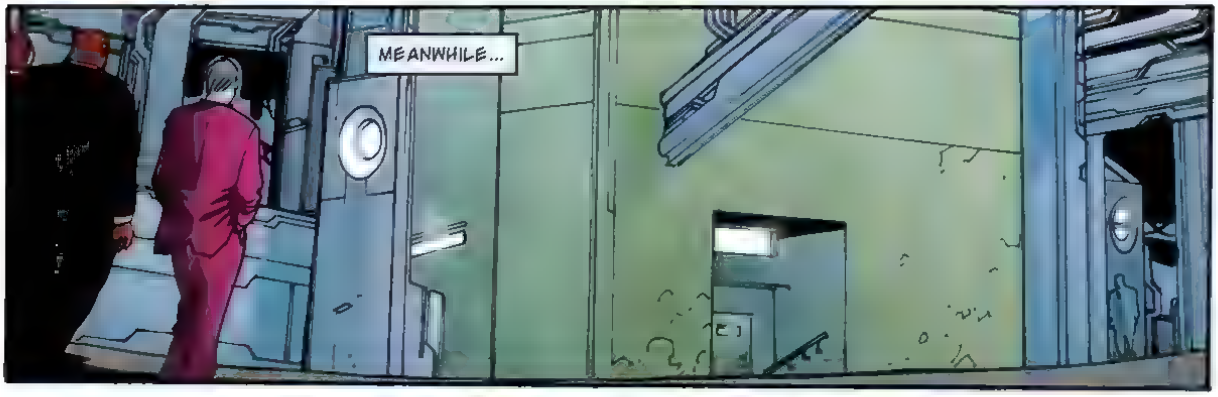
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HER. IT'S THE SHOCK MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT ..
JEHOVAH BLESS YOU, MARTHA JONES... AND THANK YOU FOR THE SECOND CHANCES...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE IT SO BADLY.
VERY FEW HUMANS KNOW CATKIND PHYSIOLOGY.
NO... NOT THAT, IT'S...

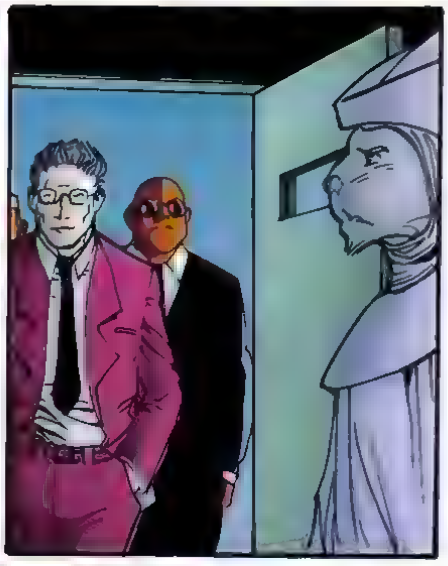

...SORRY, I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME.
GARRARD TOWNSEND. AND YOU?
MARTHA JONES. I'M A DOCTOR.

MA'AM, PLEASE COME WITH US, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.
COME WITH US, PLEASE.
ME? WHY?
BUT SHE'S HELPING—
QUIET PLEASE, SIR, OR YOU'LL BE ARRESTED, TOO.

TELL THE DOCTOR WHERE I AM.


MEANWHILE...

YEAH?
SILAS WAIN. I'M EXPECTED.



AS AGREED. AT MIDNIGHT, YOU HAVE YOUR PLANET BACK, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE HUMANS THINK. I REQUIRE MY PAYMENT.
OH. AND I WAS RIGHT. THE DOCTOR IS HERE. I CAN... SMELL HIM.
THE HUMANS WILL BE GONE. FROM THIS WORLD AND THIS GALAXY. FOREVER.
YEAH, WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
THE REST OF YOUR PANTHEON WON'T LIKE IT IF THEY KNOW WE'RE DOING... PRIVATE DEALS. SO EXCUSE US, BUT WE'RE OUTTA HERE.

THE PLANET OMPHALOS.
A HIGHLY ADVANCED CIVILISATION HAS EXISTED HERE, TRADING WITH OTHER PLANETS AND MOONS, FOR CENTURIES, LIVING IN TOTALLY HARMONY WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS.
FINALLY. IT IS TIME... EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE HAS BEEN IN PREPARATION. FOR THIS!
BUT TODAY, SOMETHING WILL CHANGE THAT...
FOR TODAY, THE SEVENTEEN BILLION SOULS WHO LIVE IN THE CITIES ON OMPHALOS...
...ARE GONE. BAR ONE. ONE WITNESS. ONE SURVIVOR. AND HE'S NOT PARTICULARLY SURPRISED, UPSET OR DISAPPOINTED.
AT LAST.
AND THE UNIVERSE CARRIES ON AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO TEN WORLDS NOW...

OKAY, SO YOU SAY IT WAS THE BOARDROOM OF VEDELA DEFENSE. WEAPONS?
NAH, MATE. DEFENSE BARRIERS AGAINST THAT.

REALLY? BARRIERS AGAINST WHAT, TREES? A BIT OF GRASS? GOT A BIG HAYFEVER EPIDEMIC GOING ON?

LET'S FOCUS, SHALL WE? NOTHING LIVES OUT ON THE SAVANNAH, DOCTOR. FORGET IT.

NOW THIS IS INTERESTING. YOU KNOW WHAT I RECKON THIS IS?
THE ONLY BIT OF THE ROOM NOT DAMAGED BY THE EXPLOSION, BUT AFFECTED BY SOMETHING ELSE.

I'LL GET MY CSU GUYS TO INVESTIGATE.
NO NEED. TELL ME, WAS EVERYONE IN HERE CATKIND WHEN THE BOMB WENT OFF?
I IMAGINE SO.

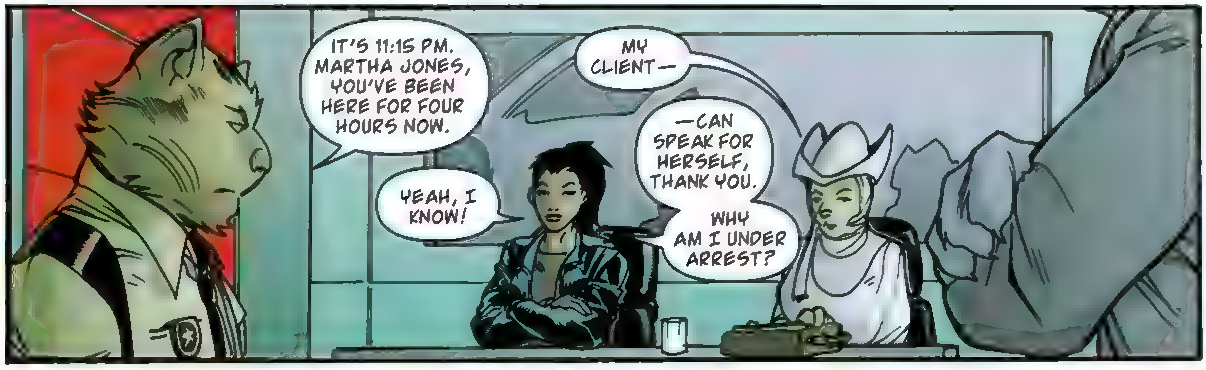
ME, TOO. WE WERE WRONG. THERE'S HUMAN DNA IN THAT AREA, JUST A FEW FLAKES. THE AMOUNT GIVEN OFF WHEN SOMEONE MAKES AN EMERGENCY SPATIAL SHIFT.

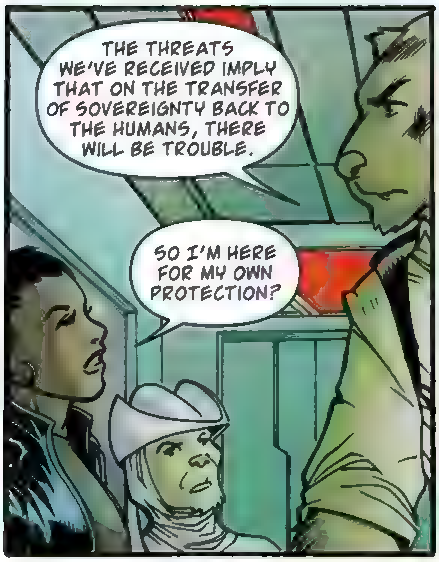
HANG ON, WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO COME UP HERE, IF YOU DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY HUMANS IN HERE?
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOU. I THOUGHT YOU REQUESTED.
YEAH, GUY IN THE STREET SAID—

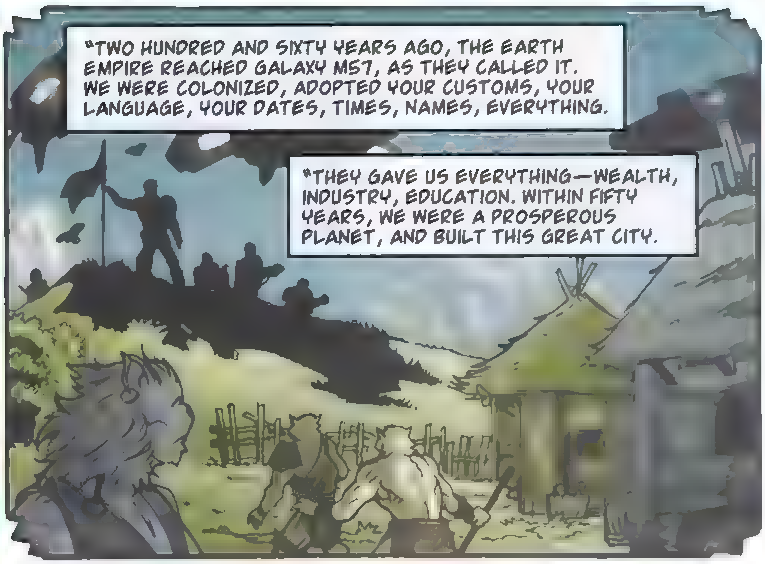
GARRARD? BUT THEN... MARTHA!

GARRARD! I WANT A WORD WITH YOU.

I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT, MONSIEUR LE CHAT...







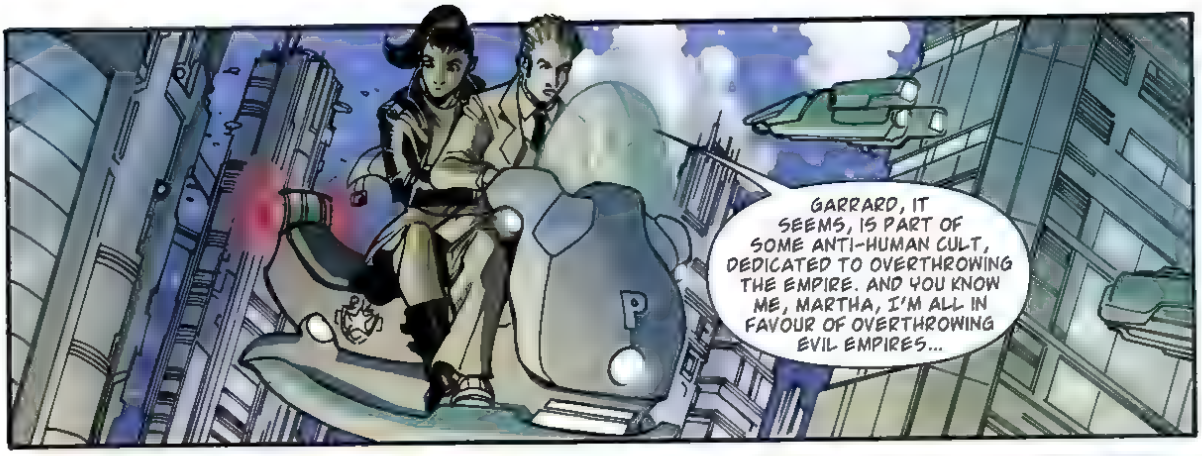
"WE HAD AUTONOMY UNTIL TODAY. IT WAS AGREED THAT ON THE EVE OF THE YEAR THE HUMANS CALLED FIVE BILLION, WE WOULD CEDE CONTROL BACK TO THEM, AND BECOME PART OF THEIR EMPIRE COMPLETELY.

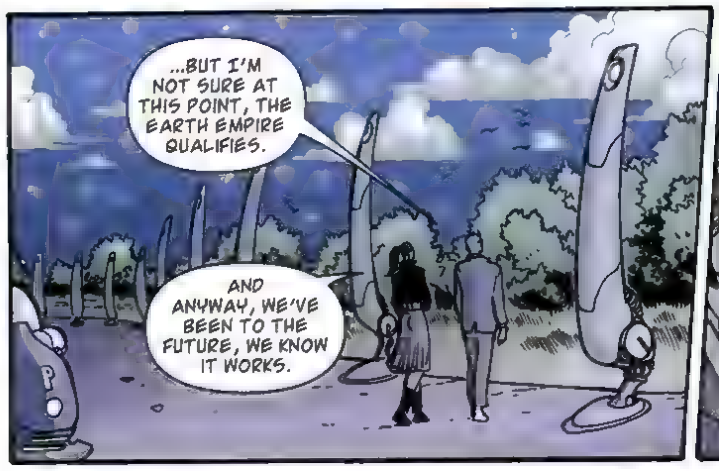
"BUT THERE WERE FACTIONS WHO REFUSED, WHO COULDN'T SEE THAT WITHOUT THEIR HELP, WE WERE IN A DEAD END. OUR CIVILIZATION WAS DECAYING FROM WITHIN.

"THERE WAS ALMOST A WAR, BUT IN THE END THOSE THAT REJECTED OUR FUTURE RETURNED TO THE WILDERNESS. AND WE AGREED NEVER TO ENCROACH ON THEIR TERRITORY.

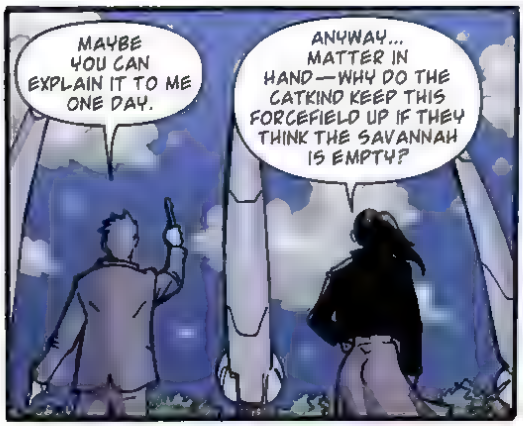
"WE ESTABLISHED A FORCEFIELD WITH A LOW-LEVEL EMPATHIC FIELD, ENOUGH TO CONVINCE THEM TO STAY ON THE SAVANNAH AND NEVER COME BACK."

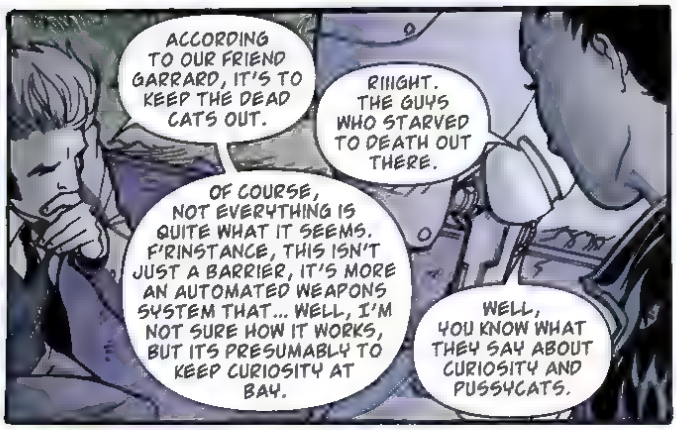
SO, IF YOU HADN'T ACCEPTED THE EMPIRE'S HELP, YOU RECKON...
IN FIFTY YEARS, WE'D HAVE BEEN EXTINCT.
WE HAD NO FOOD. THE SAVANNAH IS BEAUTIFUL BUT NO LONGER ABLE TO SUSTAIN US.
THOSE THAT RETURNED TO THE SAVANNAH DIED WITHIN MONTHS, STARVED.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
WEEEP
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. AT MIDNIGHT...
HULLO, MARTHA JONES. SORRY IT'S TAKEN ME A WHILE—QUITE A FEW POLICE PRECINCTS IN THIS CITY.
THE DEFENCES COME DOWN AND WHATEVER IS IN THE SAVANNAH GETS BACK IN TO RID THIS WORLD OF ALL TRACES OF THE EARTH EMPIRE AND IT'S PEOPLE.
OH. VERY GOOD. YEAH—UMM... HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?
OH, I HAD A VERY COOPERATIVE STOOL CAT.


GARRARD, IT SEEMS, IS PART OF SOME ANTI-HUMAN CULT, DEDICATED TO OVERTHROWING THE EMPIRE. AND YOU KNOW ME, MARTHA, I'M ALL IN FAVOUR OF OVERTHROWING EVIL EMPIRES...


...BUT I'M NOT SURE AT THIS POINT, THE EARTH EMPIRE QUALIFIES.
AND ANYWAY, WE'VE BEEN TO THE FUTURE, WE KNOW IT WORKS.

OH, MARTHA JONES, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO ALL THAT CAN COME UNRAVELLED IF...
YEAH, YEAH, INFINITE TEMPORAL FLUX, I REMEMBER.
YOU DO? OH. OH, GOOD. YEAH. WELL DONE.


MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT TO ME ONE DAY.
ANYWAY... MATTER IN HAND—WHY DO THE CATKIND KEEP THIS FORCEFIELD UP IF THEY THINK THE SAVANNAH IS EMPTY?


ACCORDING TO OUR FRIEND GARRARD, IT'S TO KEEP THE DEAD CATS OUT.
RIIIGHT. THE GUYS WHO STARVED TO DEATH OUT THERE.
OF COURSE, NOT EVERYTHING IS QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS. F'RINSTANCE, THIS ISN'T JUST A BARRIER, IT'S MORE AN AUTOMATED WEAPONS SYSTEM THAT... WELL, I'M NOT SURE HOW IT WORKS, BUT ITS PRESUMABLY TO KEEP CURIOSITY AT BAY.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT CURIOSITY AND PUSSYCATS.

BACK ON YOUR PLANET, F'RINSTANCE, YOU HAVE STORIES OF A MONSTER IN A HUGE LAKE IN SCOTLAND. MIGHT BE A LOAD OF OLD TWADDLE, BUT YOU CAN NEVER BE QUITE SURE, AND IT'S OFTEN THAT LITTLE SEED OF DOUBT THAT STOPS PEOPLE SWIMMING IN DANGEROUS WATERS.
GO ON, NOW TELL ME THERE REALLY IS A LOCH NESS MONSTER THAT EATS SWIMMERS.
WELL. I DON'T THINK EITHER OF THEM ACTUALLY EATS PEOPLE.
EITHER...? OF...? THEM?

YUP. ONE'S A BIG CYBORG, THE OTHER'S A MUTATED DNA EXPERIMENT BETWEEN A VERY SILLY MAN AND AN INNOCENT SNAKE.
OF COURSE. TWO. WHY DIDN'T I GUESS THAT...?

"WHOEVER BLEW UP THAT OFFICE BLOCK DID IT TO GET HOLD OF THE MECHANISM TO LOWER THESE FORCEFIELDS. IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES, MARTHA JONES, IF I'M RIGHT, THEY'LL GO DOWN AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT."

"AND WHAT, DOCTOR, DO WE DO IF, YOU KNOW, WE GET ATTACKED BY FERAL GHOSTLY CATKIND FROM THE SAVANNAH?"

"RUN?"

"HOW DID GARRARD GET OUT OF THE BUILDING WHEN IT BLEW UP?"

"AHH, IT WASN'T HIM. HIS JOB WAS TO SPLIT US UP. RIGHT NOW, HE'LL BE LEADING THE POLICE TO THE HIDEOUT OF WHOEVER'S BEHIND ALL THIS."

"REALLY?"

"I GAVE THE POLICE A *TARDIS* HOMING DEVICE TO PLANT ON HIM. THEY'RE FOLLOWING HIM RIGHT NOW."

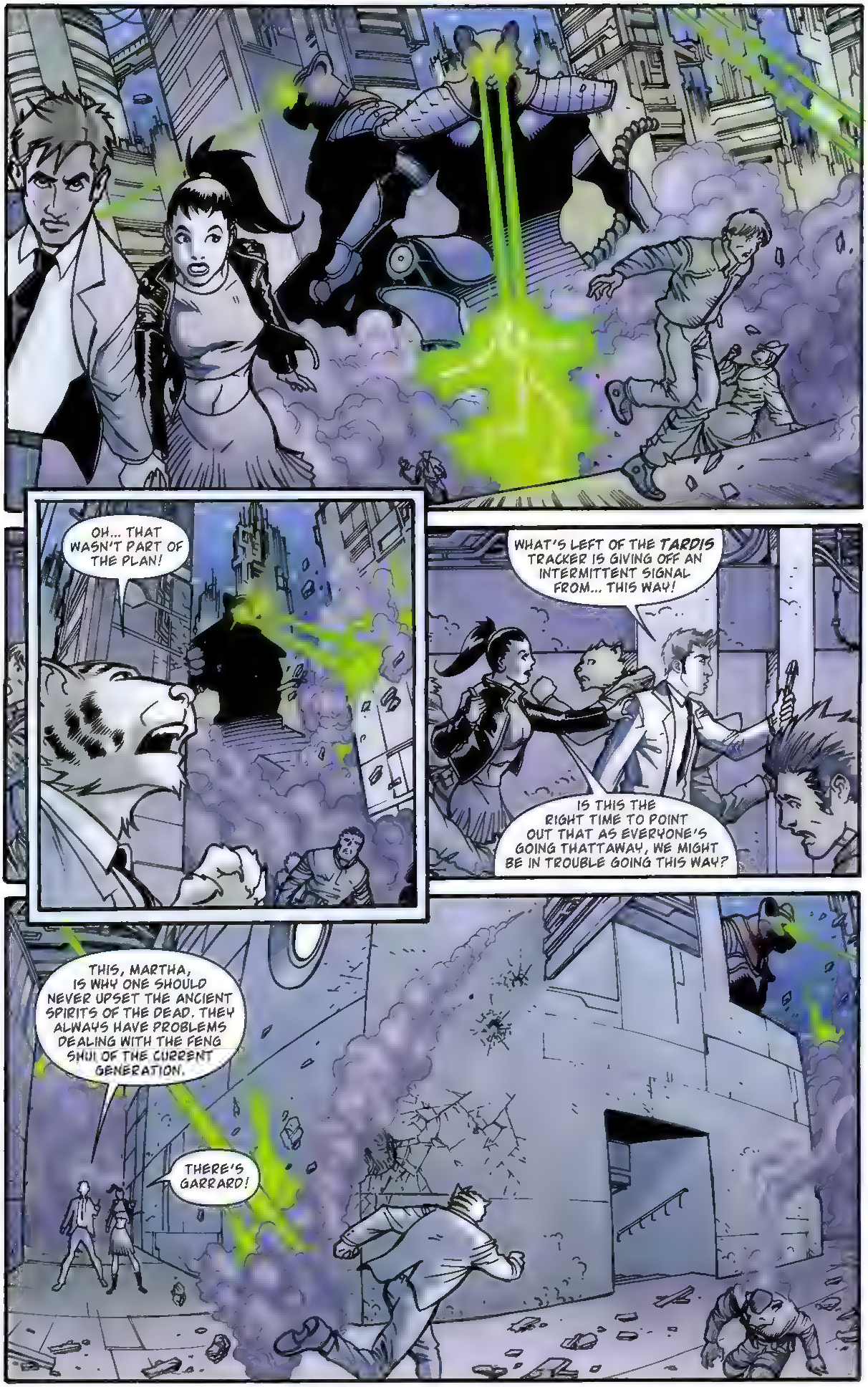
SO IF I TRIANGULATE WITH THIS BETWEEN HERE, THE *TARDIS* AND THE HOMING DEVICE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASCERTAIN WHERE... OH...

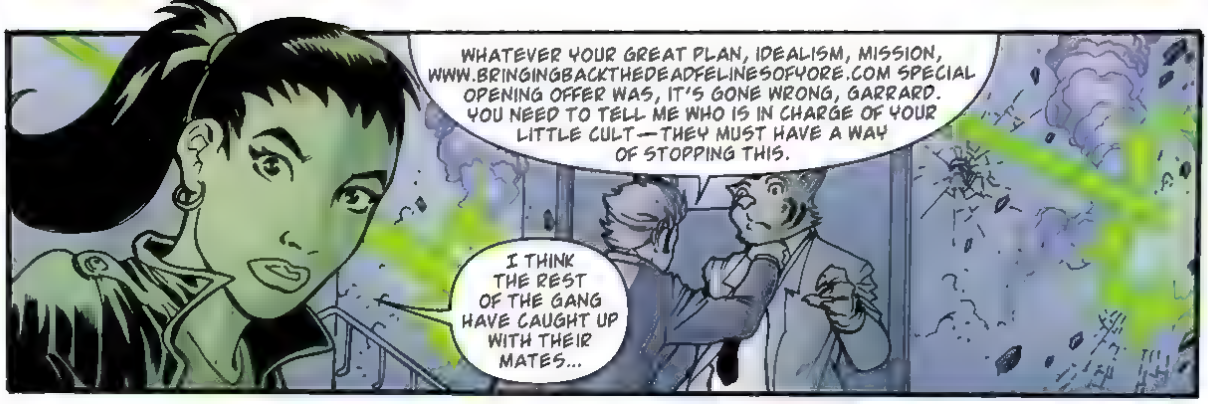
OH? I DON'T LIKE "OH"...

"OH" USUALLY MEANS "THE PLAN'S GONE WRONG, MARTHA."

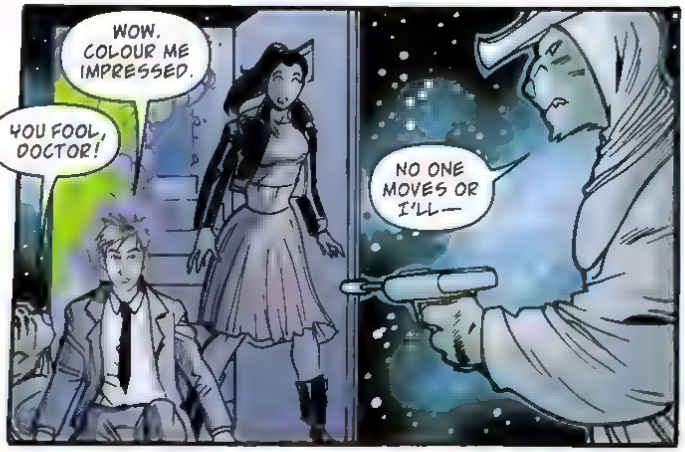
THE PLAN'S GONE WRONG, MAR—

WHY DO I THINK IT'S MIDNIGHT, DOCTOR?


OH... THAT WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN!
WHAT'S LEFT OF THE TARDIS TRACKER IS GIVING OFF AN INTERMITTENT SIGNAL FROM... THIS WAY!
IS THIS THE RIGHT TIME TO POINT OUT THAT AS EVERYONE'S GOING THATTAWAY, WE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE GOING THIS WAY?
THIS, MARTHA, IS WHY ONE SHOULD NEVER UPSET THE ANCIENT SPIRITS OF THE DEAD. THEY ALWAYS HAVE PROBLEMS DEALING WITH THE FENG SHUI OF THE CURRENT GENERATION.
THERE'S GARRARD!


WHATEVER YOUR GREAT PLAN, IDEALISM, MISSION, WWW.BRINGINGBACKTHEDEADFELINESOFYORE.COM SPECIAL OPENING OFFER WAS, IT'S GONE WRONG, GARRARD. YOU NEED TO TELL ME WHO IS IN CHARGE OF YOUR LITTLE CULT—THEY MUST HAVE A WAY OF STOPPING THIS.
I THINK THE REST OF THE GANG HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH THEIR MATES...

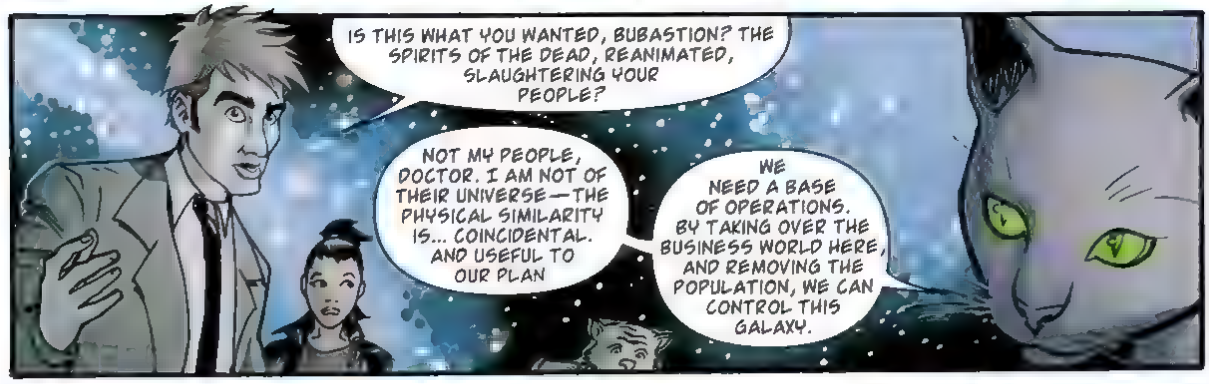
ROAWRRR?!


WOW. COLOUR ME IMPRESSED.
YOU FOOL, DOCTOR!
NO ONE MOVES OR I'LL—

ROAWRRRR—!
OKAY. THIS IS A NEW EXPERIENCE. I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING SOLID UNDER MY HANDS, BUT I'M NOT FALLING. WHY NOT?

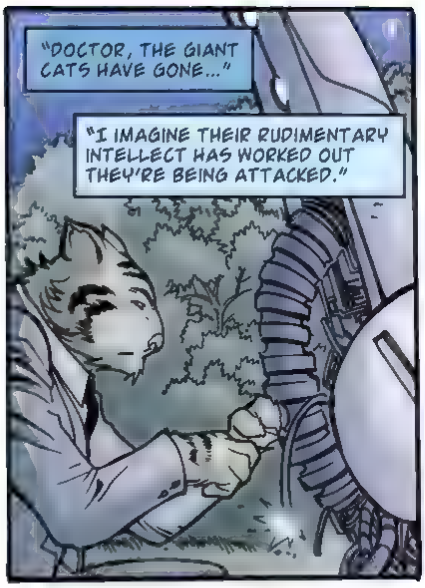
BUBASTION!
THIS IS LIMBO SPACE, MARTHA JONES. WELCOME TO MY HOME.
YOU MADE IT OUT OF THE GALLERY, THEN. BRILLIANT. STILL, THAT'S GOTTA BE ONE LESS LIFE... EIGHT, IS IT NOW?

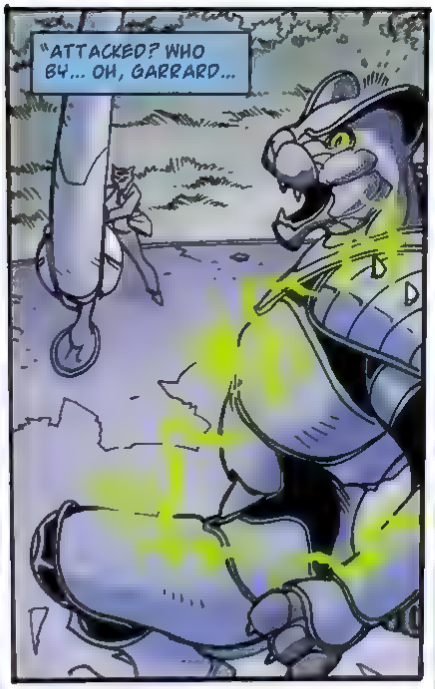
"OF COURSE I ESCAPED. AM I NOT BUBASTION? OF THE ELITE PANTHEON?"
TOLD YOU, YOU WOULDN'T LIKE WHERE THE SONIC SCREWDRIVER WAS GUIDING US, MARTHA.
YOU WERE RIGHT. AS USUAL. GOOD THING I'M NOT FEL-D-1 SENSITIVE, ISN'T IT?
OH, GET YOU, DOCTOR JONES AND YOUR TECHNICAL TERMS.

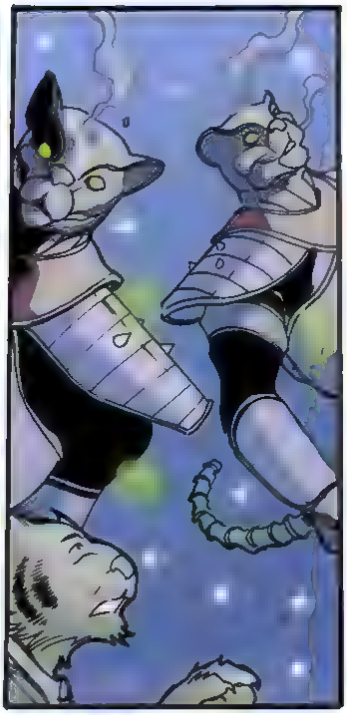

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED, BUBASTION? THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, REANIMATED, SLAUGHTERING YOUR PEOPLE?
NOT MY PEOPLE, DOCTOR. I AM NOT OF THEIR UNIVERSE—THE PHYSICAL SIMILARITY IS... COINCIDENTAL. AND USEFUL TO OUR PLAN
WE NEED A BASE OF OPERATIONS. BY TAKING OVER THE BUSINESS WORLD HERE, AND REMOVING THE POPULATION, WE CAN CONTROL THIS GALAXY.

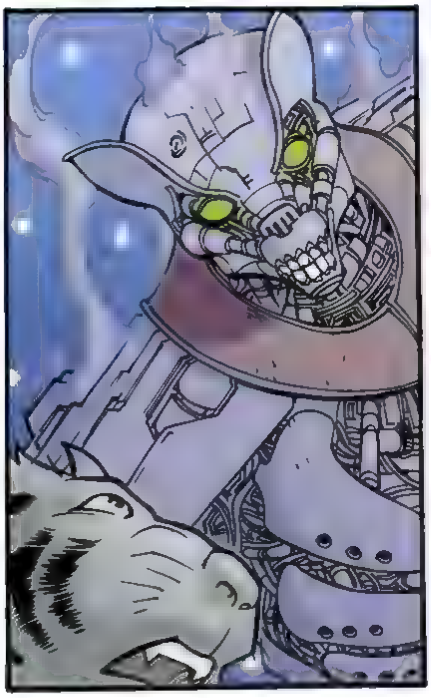
YEAH, AND? I MEAN, GREAT. THAT'S CLEVER. YOU RUN THIS PLANET, YOU RUN THE CONGLOMERATES VIA HENCHCATS I'M GUESSING AS GOING OUT AND ABOUT MUST BE TRICKY FOR YOU AND YOUR, WHAT WAS IT, ELITE PANTHEON? NO DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR THERE, THEN.
OH, IT'S NOT THE DEAD—THEY'RE JUST HOLOGRAPHICALLY DISGUISED HYDRAULIC WEAPONS, BEAMING DOWN THE ILLUSION OF BEING CATKIND.
MASTER BUBASTION—WE HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS, BUT WE DID NOT EXPECT THE DEAD TO RISE. TO STRIKE US DOWN.
YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED, GARRARD. BUT THEN PEOPLE LIKE YOU SO OFTEN ARE. I WONDER IF GULLIBILITY IS GENETIC—I ENCOUNTER IT SO OFTEN THESE DAYS AND—

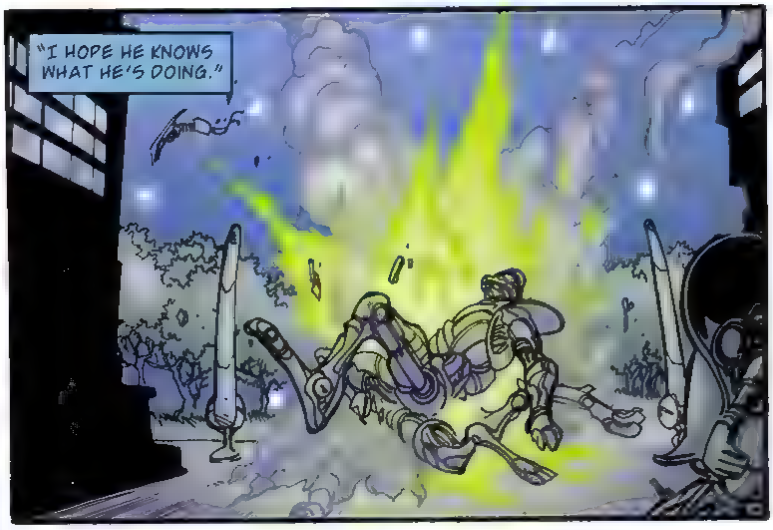
DOCTOR, HE'S—
YES, I'M SURE HE IS. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THIS GALAXY, BUBASTION? YOU'RE FAR TOO POWERFUL TO JUST NEED TO DOMINATE ALL THIS.
OUR PLANS ARE IRRELEVANT TO YOU, LAST OF THE TIME LORDS.
WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A LAB RAT TO US, DOCTOR. YOU ARE BEING... TESTED. AND EACH TIME, YOU PASS WITH FLYING COLOURS. BUT OUT OF RESPECT, FOR YOU HAVE EARNED THAT MUCH AT LEAST, I'LL TELL YOU THIS.
SOMETHING IS COMING, DOCTOR, MARTHA JONES. AND THEN WE SHALL SEE IF THE TESTS HAVE BEEN WORTH IT.
QUICK—WE DON'T WANT TO BE TRAPPED IN HERE WHEN HE TURNS OFF THE PORTAL TO HIS LIMBO SPACE.
WHY NOT?
TRUST ME—IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN...


"DOCTOR, THE GIANT CATS HAVE GONE..."
"I IMAGINE THEIR RUDIMENTARY INTELLECT HAS WORKED OUT THEY'RE BEING ATTACKED."


"ATTACKED? WHO BY... OH, GARRARD...






"I HOPE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING."

LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP HERE BEFORE WE HEAD OFF. AND HOPEFULLY, NEVER NEED TO COME BACK.
I'M GOING OFF CATS.

NEXT MONTH IN:
ISSUE #4

IDWORDS
News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

REIGN OF TERROR

Where the TRANSFORMERS movie left off, THE REIGN OF STARSCREAM *begins!*

When we last saw Starscream onscreen, he was one of only a few Decepticons to survive the epic battle at the climax of the blockbuster *Transformers* movie. After the credits rolled, he was taking off into space for parts unknown… until now! While a live-action sequel is already set for the summer of 2009, fans need not wait another year to get their first fix of *Transformers* movie mayhem—IDW Publishing will release the film's official comics sequel in April, with the no-holds-barred 'botfest *The Reign of Starscream.*

For this marquee miniseries, IDW has brought back the heavy hitters from its best-selling *Transformers* movie tie-ins of 2007—IDW Publisher and Editor-in-Chief **Chris Ryall**, who co-wrote the *Transformers Movie Prequel*—and fan-favorite sketchmaster **Alex Milne**, who handled the art on the *Transformers Movie Adaptation.* Joining Ryall this time will be IDW cohort **Chris Mowry**, who created the overall story for this comic book continuation of their war on our world.

To find out more about the upcoming movie sequel comic, we banged on Ryall's office door several times to echoes of "I'm on deadline! You wanna die?" So, instead, we sandbagged him on the way to his car, bound his wrists up with zip-ties and then force-fed him decaffienated coffee until he started to talk. In order to get Mowry to talk, we just hid some of his toys.

cover by Alex Milne

Angel: After the Fall #5
Badger Survival Guide #4
Cory Doctorow's Futuristic Tales of the Here and Now #6: After the Siege
Doctor Who #3
Doctor Who Classics #4
Dino Sizers #2
Everybody's Dead #1
Fade Out #75
FX #1
Gene Simmons Zipper #5
Ghost Whisperer: The Haunted #1
Locke & Key #2
Rogue Angel: Teller of Tall Tales #2
Silent Hill: Sinner's Reward #2
Speed Racer: Chronicles of the Racer #3
Star Trek: The New Generation: Intelligence Gathering #3
Star Trek: New Frontier: Turnaround #1
[illegible] #1

The Transformers: Best of the UK: Space Pirates #1
[illegible]
The Transformers Spotlight: Mirage
[illegible]

The Complete Badger Vol. 2 TPB
Complete Terry & The Pirates vol. 3 HC
CSI: Serial—New Printing
CSI: Bad Rap—New Printing
Sparrow: Ashley Wood, Vol. 2
Speed Racer Vol. 3 TPB
Speed Racer, Vol. 4 TPB
Speed Racer/Racer X Vol. 1 TPB
Star Trek: Year Four TPB
[illegible] Vol. 2 TPB
Zombies vs. Robots vs. Amazons HC

Worthwhile Books Titles
[illegible]

MARCH RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

Everybody's Dead #1

Star Trek: New Frontier: Turnaround #1

FX #1

Ghost Whisperer: The Haunted #1

Comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, praises, etc. are appreciated. Feel free to send any correspondence to letters@idwpublishing.com or IDWORDS, 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. You can also join in the festivities on our message boards at idwpublishing.com.

cover by Gabriel Rodriguez

IDWords: So, Starscream has always been a favorite among the fans, and with his escape at the end of the movie it seems only natural that you'd showcase him in the sequel. Can you give us a sneak peek behind what we're going to see?

Chris Ryall: Well, the one thing I wish we could've seen more of in the movie was more interplay between the Decepticons. We didn't get to see all that much of their personalities, so this sequel is definitely going to delve into what makes some of them—notably Starscream and a few so-far-unnamed others—tick. Starscream, as he always has in all his iterations, has some schemes of his own, and now that Megatron is out of the way, he sees this as the perfect chance to take charge and make them happen.

Chris Mowry: I think what is going to stand out the most is that this is a version of Starscream that we've not seen before, and certainly didn't see enough of in the movie. He's not the same running joke as he was back in the day. He's smart and lethal... VERY lethal.

IDWords: Ryall, you co-wrote the movie prequel, and now you're co-writing the movie sequel—sort of the IDW bookends for the film. How different was it writing the two?

CR: With both, the movie script was our starting place. Only, with the Prequel, we worked backwards, filling in gaps and explaining things that were referenced as having already happened. With the Sequel, it's much more of an unknown. The end of the movie is where we begin, too, but from there, we're charting out own path, free to expand the story into some exciting new directions.

IDWords: There's a live-action sequel in 2009. How do you navigate the storytelling of the comics sequel, knowing that there's a further movie sequel on the horizon?

CM: At this moment, we know that there will indeed be a sequel, and one of our characters will play a major role in it. Plot-wise, we're trying to continue the story right where the movie left off and have some fun with it. During this whole process however, we've got the live-action sequel in the back of our minds and it's going to be very tough to not contradict that. I think people will be pleased at what we have to offer, though. There'll be much more action than in the movie and prequel and we'll try to tie up a lot of those loose ends that were left from the movie. Just how did the Decepticons get to Earth before the Autobots anyway?

IDWords: Rumor has it that there'll be new Transformers *characters in the comics sequel who weren't in the film. Want to give us a roll call?*

CR: I'd love to. But I'd love even more for people to be surprised when they see them appear in the comic for the first time. I can tell you that there will be characters both known and unknown appearing here. Some familiar and some all-new.

IDWords: Will there be any "Easter eggs" or hidden references to the IDW Transformers *continuity for sharp-eyed fans to look for?*

CM: Why, of course! There'll be plenty of things to be on the lookout for.

CR: With longtime fans like **Alex Milne** on art and [co-writer] **Chris Mowry** involved? Oh, that's guaranteed. In fact, you can see a first one on this page, in the form of variant cover artist **Gabriel Rodriguez**'s tribute to a classic *Transformers* comic cover from times past.

IDWords: Ryall, readers of the IDW message boards know you're not just editor-in-chief, you're a big fan of Transformers *as well. What's with the whole "ChrisCharger" thing there?*

CR: That was my "guise" at the time we started, since my then-car, the Honda S2000, was already an Alternator, Windcharger. And **Nick Roche** was kind enough to bring that figure to life (that was his first professional IDW work, a fact that no doubt brings tears of one kind or another to his eyes). Now that that car is long gone, though, it might be time for me to scan a new form.

IDWords: Speaking of the "Chris" name, your collaborator this time is fellow IDW Autobot Chris Mowry. How did the whole "Chris & Chris" team come about, and how are you working together?

CR: Well, one of our first plotting sessions devolved quickly into heckling the John Cena movie *The Marine* instead of actually working, if that tells you anything about our co-writing process. But actually, Mowry had this entire story solidly planned out in detailed fashion, so it's an easy matter for us to now work together on the actual scripting.

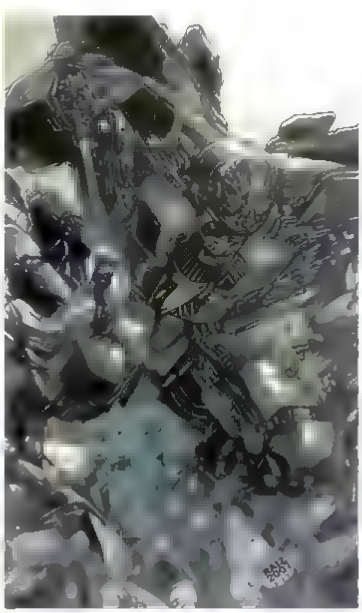
IDWords: Okay, there's the movie sequel. What else is in store for IDW's Transformers fans in 2008?

CR: Let's just say that while Megatron might not be getting much play here—due to the fact that he "died" at the end of the first movie—that won't be a problem in our other books. All Hail.

CM: Yeah, All Hail, indeed. But I think maybe since this is an election year, the fans will get to choose which Decepticon leader they like best.

IDWords: And now a question sure to stir up controversy among fans. Which is your all-time favorite Transformers continuity? And no—you can't say "IDW".

CM: Definitely the Marvel stuff. Having the new toy you just got suddenly appear in a comic book was just too cool.



cover by James Raiz

CR: So you mean which is my second-favorite continuity, then? I'm definitely biased towards the movie continuity now, since it's new and exciting and we're actually contributing to it. But in the spirit of fair play, I'll have to go with the original Marvel continuity—it was the foundation for everything that followed, and it's what I first read as a kid. And you know your first time always holds a special place in your heart...

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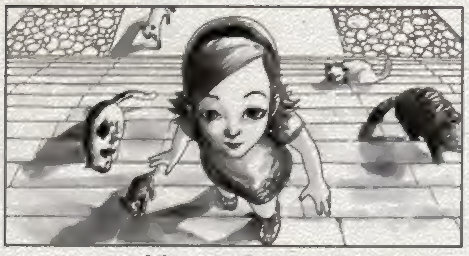

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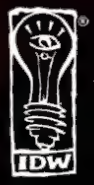

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